This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (previously presented): A point-of-sale system
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of point-of-sale
3 terminal units connected thereto via a predetermined
4 communication line for data transfer/receipt between each
5 point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:
6   maintenance programs for the point-of-sale system
7 are stored in the host unit;
8   execution programs of the point-of-sale system
9 are stored in the host unit; and
10   each point-of-sale terminal unit is not provided
11 with any point-of-sale system execution program, and has at
12 least a transmission data generating function and a
13 communication function for data exchange with the host
14 unit.

Claim 2 (canceled)

1 Claim 3 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein the transfer/receipt data is
3 subjected to data quantity reduction and compression.

1 Claim 4 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 3, wherein the data reduction and
3 compression are performed in units of image data frames by
4 comparing the present frame and immediately preceding frame
5 of transferred data, only data recognized to have been
6 changed with respect to the immediately preceding frame
7 being compressed.

1 Claim 5 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 3, wherein the data quantity reduction
3 and compression are executed by a process of transferring
4 only position data and character data in character data
5 frames.

1 Claim 6 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein the point-of-sale system is
3 managed by a managing system provided only on the host unit
4 side.

1 Claim 7 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein each communication between
3 the point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit is
4 executed via a network selected from a group consisting of
5 a LAN and a WAN.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein data having been sent out
3 from a point-of-sale terminal unit to the host unit side is
4 not held in the point-of-sale terminal side.

1 Claim 9 (previously presented): A point-of-sale system
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of point-of-sale
3 terminal units connected thereto via a predetermined
4 communication line for data transfer/receipt between each
5 point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:
6   execution programs of the point-of-sale system
7 are stored in the host unit;
8   each point-of-sale terminal unit is not provided
9 with any point-of-sale system execution program, and has at
10 least a transmission data generating function and a

11 communication function for data exchange with the host
12 unit; and
13   execution programs of the point-of-sale system
14 are updated only at the host.

1 Claim 10 (previously presented): A point-of-sale system
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of different
3 point-of-sale units connected via predetermined
4 communication line thereto and operable in point-of-sale
5 systems for different kinds of services, wherein:
6   point-of-sale system execution programs for the
7 different kinds of services are collectively stored in the
8 host unit;
9   each point-of-sale unit is not provided with any
10 corresponding system execution program, and has at least a
11 transmission data generating function and a communication
12 function for data exchange with the host unit; and
13   a maintenance system for the maintenance of the
14 plurality of the point-of-sale systems for the different
15 kinds of services is provided only in the host unit.

Claims 11-12 (canceled)

1 Claim 13 (previously presented): A system for effecting
2 point of sale functions, the system comprising:
3   a) a host, the host including means for storing all
4   programs related to execution of the point of sale
5   system, and means for storing all programs related to
6   maintaining the point of sale system;

7   b) at least two point of sale terminals, each of the
8   at least two point of sale terminals having

9   i) means for generating transmission data, and

10   ii) means for exchanging data with the host; and

11 c) communication means coupled with the host and each

12 of the at least two point of sale terminals, and

13 facilitating communications between the host and each

14 of the at least two point of sale terminals.

1 Claim 14 (previously presented): In a system including a

2 host, at least two point of sale terminals, and

3 communications means coupled with the host and each of the

4 at least two point of sale terminals, and facilitating

5 communications between the host and each of the at least

6 two point of sale terminals, a method for effecting point

7 of sale functions, the method comprising:

8 a) storing, solely at the host, all programs related

9 to execution of the point of sale system;

10 b) generating, by each of the point of sale

11 terminals, data related to sales; and

12 c) forwarding the data related to sales from each of

13 the point of sale terminals to the host as soon as the

14 data is generated.

1 Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14

2 further comprising:

3 d) purging, as soon as the data related to sales has

4 been forwarded to the host, the data related to sales

5 from the point of sale terminal forwarding the data.

1 Claim 16 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system

2 of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of

3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

1 Claim 17 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

1 Claim 18 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 of claim 10 wherein at least one of the plurality of
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

1 Claim 19 (previously presented): The system of claim 13
2 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals
3 includes a voice input.

1 Claim 20 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a
4 printer.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a
4 printer.

1 Claim 22 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 of claim 10 wherein at least one of the plurality of
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a
4 printer.

1 Claim 23 (previously presented): The system of claim 13
2 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals
3 further includes a display and a printer.

Claim 24 (previously presented): Apparatus for use in a
system including a bank-related system for executing
settling processes based on sales data and a credit-related
system for executing settling processes based on sales
data, the apparatus comprising:

    a) a host unit;

    b) a shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit for
    generating the sales data;

    c) a maintenance center; and

    d) data transfer lines connecting the host unit to
    each of (1) the shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit,
    (2) the bank-related system, (3) the credit-related
    system, and (4) the maintenance center,

        wherein the sales data used by the bank-related
system and credit-related system are provided from the
shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit, and

        wherein programs for executing processes on the
shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit for a plurality of
different kinds of services are stored solely on the host
unit.

Claim 25 (new): The point-of-sale system according to
claim 1, wherein a purchase amount settling function is
performed exclusively on the host.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 14 further comprising:

    d) settling a purchase amount exclusively using the
    host.

Claim 27 (new): The system according to claim 13, wherein
the host provides at least two of the at least two point of
sale terminals with different services.

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